



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Valley Forge National
Historical Park

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Valley Forge National Historical Park - News Release

It was a Continual Drill

New Exhibition Opens in the park's Welcome Center

When the Continental Army marched out of Valley Forge in June, 1778, they left as one unified army, more disciplined and better trained in the effective use of their weapons. Their performance was a far cry from the undisciplined, ragged collection of soldiers which arrived at Valley Forge in December 1777. This transformation of the Continental Army occurred under the strict instruction and discipline of Friedrich von Steuben, a Prussian Army officer who arrived at Valley Forge in late February 1778 for the purpose of training the American forces.

The new exhibit *It Was a Continual Drill* features an extremely rare 1779 copy of the drill manual Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States, compiled at Valley Forge by Baron von Steuben as he trained the Continental Army. The manual set the foundation of all drilling for United States armed forces into the 20th century. The exhibit also includes printed text and a rare February 26th 1778 letter from the park's 18th century manuscript collection which introduced Baron von Steuben to his quarters at Valley Forge.

It Was a Continual Drill is featured in the Welcome Center at Valley Forge National Historical Park.

The Welcome Center at Valley Forge National Historical Park is located at the intersection of Route 23 and North Gulph Road. For further information about exhibits and events call 610-783-1077 or visit our Web site at www.nps.gov/vafo.